

LANGARA COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting
held on January 26, 2021
via Zoom meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Participants:

Elizabeth Barbeau	Margaret Heldman	Scott McLean
Darren Bernaerdt	Kerri Janota	Dawn Palmer*
Jim Bowers	Susan Kelsall	Wanda Pierson
Steven Brouse	Gerda Krause (regrets)	Terri Rear
Patricia Cia	Gurbax Leelh	Viktor Sokha
Laura Cullen	Julie Longo	Ann Syme
Nora Franzova	Tess MacMillan	Lane Trotter, Chair
Marianne Gianacopoulos (regrets)	Robin Macqueen	Yusuf Varachia (regrets)
Jody Gordon	Jane Mason	Pablo Vargas

* non-voting

Guest:

Sandra Enns, Incoming Division Chair, Social Sciences

Recorder:

Alice Hsu, Executive Assistant to the President

Prior to the start of the meeting, L. Trotter introduced new Council member Dr. E. Barbeau, Dean of Social Sciences and Community Programs, and guest S. Enn.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Workday@Langara Update
- b) IT Update
- c) Summary Report of the Education Council Meeting held on Dec. 15, 2020
- d) President's Report

It was moved by L. Cullen, seconded by D. Bernaerdt:

THAT, the Langara Council approve the agenda/consent agenda and acknowledge receipt of the consent agenda materials for information

Carried Unanimously.

2. Review of Minutes and Business Arising

- a) **Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on December 15, 2020**

It was moved by L. Cullen, seconded by P. Cia:

THAT, the Minutes of the Langara Council Meeting held on December 15, 2020, be approved.

Carried Unanimously.

b) Business Arising - Budget Information

V. Sokha advised that Finance has been working on the Q3 forecast but experienced some challenges due to COVID. In the meanwhile, in response to the financial challenges we are facing, the government just confirmed additional funding to support our operating budget and this would have an impact on our Q3 forecast. The Finance team will reach out to departments to discuss the challenges of budget forecasting and budget creation to help improve our future process.

The Finance team is also working on the 2021/22 budget that is scheduled to be presented to the Langara Council in March for recommendation to the President and then to the March Board meeting for approval.

Discussions ensued and V. Sokha and L. Trotter provided more information on what the challenges are and how the College will use the additional government funding. It is noted that the government has not approved colleges to run a deficit for the fiscal year 2021/22.

3. FOR INFORMATION

a) Enrolment Update

M. Heldman presented the latest weekly report on Summer 2021 application numbers and Spring 2021 enrolment numbers and numbers of course sections and section workload units.

M. Heldman then provided a few remarks on behalf of Y. Varachia who had an external commitment and was unable to join today's meeting. First, she thanked President Trotter, the Deans, faculty, the International Education department, and others across the College community who helped advocate our government and associations to support our international students who would like to start their studies and continue their programs at Langara. These efforts have raised some encouraging conversations across Canada. Second, while most of the visa application centres are now open, the study permit approval process continues to move rather slowly due to the limited availability of appointments and large backlogs. Last, the College continues to advocate alongside Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) and other organizations for extending the time spent studying online to count towards a postgraduate work permit and for reinstating the two-stage study permit approval process. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) continues to work closely with the sector to find solutions.

Discussions ensued. In response to members' questions, M. Heldman and J. Gordon explained the significant gap between the Summer 2021 domestic number of applications and the number of offers accepted. It is noted that we are in the very early stage of the Summer 2021 application and the data is only preliminary. As well, as a result of the pandemic, it is now taking longer to receive high school grades and for students to demonstrate they have met the English requirements. M. Heldman also noted that the College is in the process of launching our Student Success Plan, which is a holistic look at the students that we want to attract to Langara and help them successfully go through their program and graduate from the College. The Plan will have a recruitment component and look at how to provide better and more accessible data to help maximize registration throughout the institution.

As a follow up to the questions raised at the December 15, 2020 Langara Council meeting, M. Heldman presented the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 waitlist numbers, the numbers of course sections and section workload units for Fall 2020 compared to Fall 2019 and for Spring 2021 compared to Spring 2020, and the enrolment numbers from the three registration cycles that had been affected by the pandemic - Summer 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.